

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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**AGENDA ITEM #8**

March 12, 1999

To: Delta Protection Commission
From: Lori Clamurro, Delta Protection Commission Staff
Re: Category III Ecosystem Restoration Projects Tracking Memo

Since 1995, restoration projects aimed at improving the quality of the Delta environment have been funded. The purpose has been specifically to implement “non-flow” related actions, also called Category III projects, to restore and enhance habitat and species populations. The term Category III comes from the State Water Resources Control Board’s adopted Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta, and Category III measures are included as part of the Bay-Delta Accord of 1994. As part of this agreement, funding for Category III projects has been provided by water users such as California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA), by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), and by Proposition 204 (State share) and federal appropriations.

For FY 99, approximately \$73 million is available for ecosystem restoration projects; most of this money is federal Bay-Delta Act appropriations. CALFED’s selection of projects can occur in one of two ways: through public solicitation or Designated Action. Designated Actions are projects which are recommended for funding by CALFED staff outside of the solicitation process, based on the following criteria: they are high priority actions in which substantial investment has already been made; funding would result in substantial progress toward ecosystem restoration goals; the projects are ready to go, and the implementing entities are identified; and the projects have the ability to leverage additional funds. Of the \$73 million available in FY 99, approximately \$56 million is being allocated to a number of Designated Actions which were recommended by CALFED’s Integration Panel, came before the Ecosystem Round Table for review and approval, and were subsequently approved by CALFED’s Policy Group. The remaining \$17 million will be used to fund projects obtained from the proposal solicitation process.

Commission staff has been preparing memos describing and updating the status of the various Category III projects funded to date in the Delta area. This memo includes the Designated Actions which were approved by the Policy Group in February 1999. Future memos will include updates of these projects as well as summaries of projects selected from the proposal solicitation process, which began on February 16, 1999 and will end on April 15, 1999.



CUWA - Solicitation 1 (1995) -- no projects relevant to Delta

| CUWA - Solicitation 2 (September 1996) | | Description | Funding | Status |
|--|--------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | | | |
| Sherman Island Levee Habitat Demonstration Project | DWR RD 341 | Construct 2.5-acre in-channel island using dredged material stored on Sherman Island. | \$960,000 | Design complete; applicants looking for additional funding. Possible rebid in Spring 1999. |
| Predicting the Evolution of Ecological Functions from Restoration of Diked Wetlands in the Delta | University of Washington | Two-year study will compare both naturally- and artificially-breached diked wetland sites to evaluate the rate, pattern, and long-term success of breached-dike restoration (as compared to natural marsh sites). | \$475,000 | Contract amendment of additional \$101,100 to increase field work and include an element for bird habitat, Feb-99. |
| Yolo Bypass Study | DWR | Two-to-three year study will provide data and technical recommendations on Bypass modifications, due to strong evidence of mortality to salmon and other species from stranding. | \$256,000 | Project is underway. First year data collected in Spring 1998. Contract executed Nov-98. |
| Decker Island Tidal Wetland Enhancement Pilot Project | Port of Sacramento | Establish 35-40 acres of tidal wetland on Decker Island, and conduct vegetation management activities to improve habitat on the remainder of the 70-acre site. | \$399,000 | Funding terminated. |
| Inventory of Rearing Habitat for Juvenile Salmon in the North Delta and Lower Sacramento and Cosumnes Rivers | Amy Harris | Conduct a survey of rearing habitat for juvenile salmon in the north Delta. Attempt to distinguish races of juvenile salmon. | \$24,500 | Project is 80% complete. |

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Funding</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Prospect Island Habitat Restoration Project | Corps of Engineers DWR | Purchase Prospect Island and restore 1,300 acres of shallow water, tidal wetlands, and aquatic habitat. | \$9,150,000 | \$2 million awarded for levee repairs, which began Nov-98. Environmental documentation is 95% complete; expected Mar-99. |
| Prospect Island Monitoring Plan | DWR | Develop a monitoring plan for post-project monitoring of the Prospect Island project. | \$35,000 | <u>Project complete.</u> |
| Introduction of Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Research Program | San Francisco Estuary Institute | Develop regional monitoring program to provide early warning for eradication or mitigation. Assess priority for control of nonindigenous marsh plants. Public outreach on ballast water invasions. Examine post-invasion control mechanisms. | \$197,000 | Project 90% complete. |
| Cosumnes River Preserve Acquisition | TNC | Acquire 4,356-acre Valensin Ranch property. | \$12,000,000 | <u>Project complete.</u> (Escrow closed Dec-96.) |
| CALFED - Solicitation 1 (July 1997) | | | | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Funding</u> | <u>Status</u> |
| Hastings Tract Fish Screen Feasibility Study | Hastings Island Land Company | Feasibility report on the installation of fish screens on gravity intake pipes and the relocation of the pipes from Cache Slough to Lindsey Slough | \$27,000 | Contract being prepared. |
| Monitoring of Delta Contaminants | DeltaKeeper | One-year pilot study to establish baseline toxicity data at 12-14 sites throughout the Delta and eastside tributaries. | \$100,000 | Contract signed Sep-98. |
| Effects of Wetlands Restoration on Methyl Mercury Production | U.C. Davis | Yield baseline data quantifying the levels of methyl mercury production from diked and reflooded wetlands. | \$546,171 | Contract signed Sep-98. |

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Funding</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--|---|--|----------------|---|
| Sedimentation Movement and Availability in the Delta | USGS | Monitor sediment transport at several sites to describe the movement of the sediment needed for habitat restoration. | \$1,046,200 | Contract for \$587,000 signed Mar-98; contract for \$460,000 signed May-98. |
| Contaminant Effects on Delta Smelt | U.C. Davis | Two-year study will evaluate contaminant effects on smelt by quantifying the overall health, condition, and growth rate of smelt collected from various sites. | \$437,236 | Contract signed Nov-98. |
| Jepson Prairie Restoration | Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Fdn. | Three-year program will restore shaded riverine aquatic habitat along portions of Barker Slough and Calhoun Cut, restore perennial grasslands, and design a habitat corridor connecting Jepson Prairie Preserve to Prospect Island. | \$244,801 | Contract signed Jan-99. |
| Demonstration Project for Protection and Enhancement of In-Channel Islands | Association of Bay Area Governments | First phase (design) funded. Design four small restoration areas (Little Tinsley Island and Webb Tract Islands). | \$270,270 | Contract signed Jul-98. Contractor selected. |
| Liberty Island Acquisition | USFWS | Acquire 4.750-acre Liberty Island. | \$8,577,000 | Contract signed Mar-98. |
| Franks Tract Recreation Area Wetlands Habitat Restoration | Moffat & Nichol Engineers DPR DWR | First phase (design and environmental documentation) funded. Design four demonstration islands along Piper Slough to restore 45 acres of perennial aquatic habitat, shaded riverine aquatic habitat, and channel island and shoal habitat. | \$231,500 | Contract signed Dec-98. |
| Tyler Island Levee Protection and Habitat Restoration Pilot Project | Habitat Assessment & Restoration Team, Inc. | Create/enhance shaded riverine aquatic and tidal perennial aquatic habitat along 2,000 feet of Georgiana Slough and along 3,000 feet of the North Fork of the Mokelumne River. | \$885,202 | Contract signed Jul-98. |
| Cosumnes River Preserve Acquisition | TNC Wildlife Conservation Board | Acquire fee or easement interests from willing sellers on three properties (totaling 2,195 acres) contiguous to the Preserve. | \$7,185,100 | Scope under review. M-W Tract acquisition to be under a separate contract. |

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Funding</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|---|--|----------------|--|
| Mokelumne River Setback Levee and Habitat Restoration | RD 2110 | Construct a 3.4-mile levee set back approximately 400 feet from the existing levee, one mile downstream of its confluence with the Cosumnes River. | \$365,000 | Project on hold as TNC negotiates to buy McCormack-Williamson Tract. |
| CALFED - Solicitation 2 (September 97) | | | | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Funding</u> | <u>Status</u> |
| Assessing Impacts of Selenium on Restoration of the Bay-Delta Ecosystem | USGS | Three-year study evaluating selenium in the Bay-Delta to develop models useful for selenium management. | \$1,588,709 | Contract signed Aug-98. |
| Cache Slough Shaded Riverine Aquatic Habitat Enhancement | RD 2060 | First phase (design) funded. Design restoration for 2,000 ft. of levee bank where erosion has removed shaded riverine aquatic habitat. | \$85,000 | Contract signed Jun-98. |
| Twitchell Island Restoration | DWR USGS NHI Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, Inc. Philip Williams & Associates Ltd. Steve Devere, Ph.D. | First phase funded. Design and construct three large restoration pilot projects, totaling 600 acres, on Twitchell Island. Develop technical design recommendations for a restoration program to raise the surface level of subsided Delta islands. | \$3,583,000 | Under review at DWR. |
| Culture of Delta Smelt | U.C. Davis | Establish a functional culture system to provide smelt embryos, larvae, juveniles, and adults for laboratory testing. | \$194,870 | Contract signed Sep-98. |
| Cosumnes Floodplain Acquisition and Restoration | TNC | Acquisition of three properties contiguous to the Cosumnes River Preserve. | \$3,400,000 | Project complete. |
| Sediment Water Quality (Designated Action) | DFG RWQCB Delta Protection Commission | Develop criteria for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to permit reuse of material dredged in the Delta. | \$500,000 | Contract being drafted Feb-99 |

CALFED - Solicitation 3 (May 1998)

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Funding</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--|----------------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Adult Fall-Run Chinook Salmon in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta | DFG | Monitor upstream movement of fall-run salmon in the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta. Determine whether the installation of three temporary barriers at the head of Old River or low DOC significantly impede upstream migration. | \$285,000 | DFG revising draft scope as of Mar-99. |
| Cosumnes River Salmonid Barrier Program | Fishery Fdn. of California (FFC) | Install fish passage structures at two summer dams in the lower Cosumnes River. Upgrade fish ladders at Granees Dam to current DFG hydraulic specifications. | \$188,255 | Contract being drafted. |
| Hastings Tract Fish Screen, Phase II: Construction | Hastings Island Land Company | Place fish screens on gravity intake pipes, and relocate the pipes from Cache Slough to Lindsey Slough. | \$271,250 | Contract being drafted. |
| Rhode Island Floodplain Management and Habitat Restoration | DFG | First phase (survey) funded. Survey conditions to determine specific improvement needs. Plan to improve fish and wildlife carrying capacity on the 67-acre island by increasing the width, height, and stability of the island's breached levees. | \$25,000 | Cooperative agreement sent for signature Jan-99. |
| Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Acquisitions | USFWS | Acquire fee title interest in two properties totaling 658 acres located within the Refuge boundary. | \$1,900,000 | Cooperative agreement sent for signature Jan-99. |
| Fern-Headreach Tidal Perennial Aquatic and Shaded River Aquatic Conservation Project | Thomas Luckey | Exercise purchase option on the Fern-Headreach Island Complex, and commit the entire 168-acre complex to shallow water habitat (140 acres) and shaded riverine aquatic habitat (28 acres). Proposed conservation easement w/ the Delta Protection Commission. | \$425,000 | Cooperative agreement approved by USFWS; sent for signature Jan-99. Draft conservation easement with Delta Protection Commission under review. |

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Funding</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|--|---|----------------|--|
| Cosumnes River Acquisition, Restoration, Planning, and Demonstration | TNC BLM Wildlife Conservation Board | Acquire fee title interest in a 300-acre property contiguous to the Cosumnes River Preserve. | \$750,000 | Cooperative agreement under review. |
| Biological Assessment of Green Sturgeon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Watershed | U.C. Davis DFG | Two-year study to determine baseline information regarding the green sturgeons' biological requirements in the watershed. | \$241,000 | Contract awaiting UCD signature. |
| Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass | Yolo Basin Fdn. | Develop a local implementation strategy for the ERPP's environmental restoration in the Yolo Bypass. | \$244,188 | EPA/NFWF cooperative agreement Feb-99; contract expected Apr-99. |
| Lower Putah Creek Watershed Stewardship Program | Solano County Dept. of Environmental Mgt. | Develop a community-based watershed stewardship program for lower Putah Creek. | \$100,500 | EPA/NFWF cooperative agreement Feb-99; contract expected Apr-99. |
| Traveling Film Festival | Independent Documentary Group S.F. Public Library S.F. Recreation and Park Dept. | Package and distribute a six-film Traveling Festival utilizing IDG's films about Bay and Delta habitats, wildlife, and restoration; travel throughout the Bay Area. | \$54,000 | Contract issued Mar-99. |
| Discover the Flyway | Yolo Basin Fdn. | Two-year program will expand the current program to include curriculum and activities for middle school students and high school students, and expand trips and training sessions for the general public. | \$49,000 | Contract issued Mar-99. |
| Bay-Delta Environmental Restoration Education Program | Water Education Foundation | Provide outreach to increase understanding of Bay-Delta watershed ecology, and relate this to long-term CALFED programs. | \$40,000 | Contract issued Mar-99. |
| Water Challenge 2010 | S.F. Bay Model Visitor Center Corps of Engineers | Traveling exhibit would allow visitors to manage Delta water for ecosystem restoration and other beneficial uses. | \$64,500 | Contract issued Mar-99. |

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Funding</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Developing a Methodology to Accurately Simulate the Entrainment of Fish | DFG | Purchase or lease a barge, mount a pipe, pump, and flume to hold a sampling net on board the barge, and conduct sampling of one of DWR's agricultural diversion siphons on Sherman Island. | \$200,000 | Developing scope of services, Mar-99. |
| CALFED - Solicitation 4 (February 1999) | | | | |
| <u>Title</u> Prospect Island Monitoring Project <i>(Designated Action)</i> | <u>Applicant(s)</u> DWR | <u>Description</u> Establish a baseline to be used as a guide for development and implementation of future projects. Info would also be used for adaptive management. | <u>Funding</u> \$885,737 | <u>Status</u> Approved by Policy Group Feb-99. |
| Cosumnes River Feasibility Study <i>(Designated Action)</i> | Corps of Engineers TNC | Study will identify, design, and estimate costs for environmental restoration and flood damage reduction opportunities along the Cosumnes River. | \$400,000 | Developing scope of services, Mar-99. |
| Mokelumne River Feasibility Study <i>(Designated Action)</i> | Corps of Engineers East Bay MUD | Study will identify, design, and estimate costs for environmental restoration and flood damage reduction opportunities along the Mokelumne River. | \$400,000 | Developing scope of services, Mar-99. |
| McCormack-Williamson Tract Start-Up Stewardship and Levee Pilot Program <i>(Designated Action)</i> | TNC | TNC has requested funds for acquisition and stewardship of M-W Tract. These costs were not included in the funds approved for property acquisition in 1998 because TNC had originally intended to immediately turn the property over to DWR; DWR has declined to accept the property at this time. | \$835,707 | Funding contingent upon signature of an option agreement. |
| Assessment of Ecological and Human Health Impacts of Mercury in the Bay-Delta Watershed <i>(Designated Action)</i> | DFG | Studies will be undertaken to better understand information that will lead to the reduction of mercury in resident fish tissues to levels that are not harmful to humans or wildlife. | \$3,700,000 | Approved by Policy Group Feb-99. |